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### **Amendments to the Claims**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

#### **Listing of claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A chemically modified ~~double stranded~~ nucleic acid molecule, wherein:
  - a. the nucleic acid molecule comprises a sense strand and a separate antisense strand, each strand having one or more pyrimidine nucleotides and one or more purine nucleotides;
  - b. each strand of the nucleic acid molecule is independently 18 to 27 nucleotides in length;
  - c. an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the antisense strand of the nucleic acid molecule ~~comprises 18 to 27 nucleotides that are~~ is complementary to a human vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) RNA comprising SEQ ID NO:474;
  - d. an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the sense strand of the nucleic acid molecule is complementary to the antisense strand and comprises an 18 to 27 nucleotide ~~portion~~ sequence of the human VEGF ~~sequence~~ RNA;
  - e. about 50 to 100 percent of the nucleotides in ~~each of~~ the sense strand and about 50 to 100 percent of the nucleotides in the antisense strand ~~strands of the nucleic acid molecule~~ are chemically modified with modifications independently selected from the group consisting of 2'-O-methyl, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, 2'-deoxy, phosphorothioate and deoxyabasic modifications; and
  - f. one or more of the purine nucleotides present in one or both strands of the nucleic acid molecule are 2'-O'-methyl purine nucleotides and one or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in one or both strands of the nucleic acid molecule are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
2. (Canceled)

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3. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises one or more ribonucleotides.
  - 4-13. (Canceled)
  14. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the purine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.
  15. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
  16. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the sense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends of the sense strand.
  17. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 16, wherein the terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.
  18. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
  19. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the purine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.
  20. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the purine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-deoxy[[-]] purine nucleotides.
  21. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the antisense strand comprises a terminal phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage at the 3' end of the antisense strand.

22-29. (Canceled)

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30. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the 5'-end of the antisense strand includes a terminal phosphate group.
- 31-32. (Canceled)
33. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
34. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotides.
35. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim [[19]] 1, wherein 1, 2, or 3 of the purine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.
36. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting the expression of human VEGF comprising administering the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 to a human subject in need thereof that expresses human VEGF RNA under conditions that allow for inhibition of human VEGF expression.
37. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the antisense strand, sense strand, or both the antisense strand and the sense strand comprise a 3'-overhang of 1-3 nucleotides.
38. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 37, wherein the nucleotides of the 3'-overhang are chemically modified so that they comprise one or more phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages and/or inverted deoxyabasic moieties, or so that they are 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotides, 2'-deoxy-2-fluoro-ribonucleotides, 2'-deoxy ribonucleotides, universal base nucleotides, 5-C-methyl nucleotides, or a combination thereof.